



## Secretary of the Navy visits Netherlands for first-hand look at smart ship benefits

By JO1 Ray Boone, Navy Mediterranean News Service

DEN HELDER, Netherlands (NNS) — To ensure DD 21 is the smartest, most Sailor-friendly warship ever, the Honorable Richard Danzig, Secretary of the Navy, recently visited Den Helder, Netherlands for a better look at one of that country's most advanced warships.

HNLMS Tjerk Hiddes is a type "M" (for multi-purpose) frigate. It incorporates a number of improved habitability and smart ship designs that Secretary Danzig wanted a closer look at.

"We are moving quite vigorously in the U.S. Navy towards more concentration on the well-being of our Sailors and Marines," said Secretary Danzig. "Making living conditions on ships better, reducing the workloads for Sailors on ships by using automation, by designing more sensibly, by creating an environment

that is more supportive of Sailors. From my standpoint this is a very good reason to come and visit this Navy. The Dutch have been in the forefront of Navies that have been concerned with this kind of activity."

While onboard the Dutch ship, Secretary Danzig visited damage control, the command information center (CIC), and crew quarters. Main engineering spaces are monitored by roving patrols, video cameras and remote sensors, resulting in engine rooms that go largely unmanned. Computer stations in CIC are completely interchangeable, relying on their operator's access card to determine their function. For the Secretary, though, the most significant improvements were in the eight-man staterooms shared by even the most junior Sailors.

"We are looking at the



**Sergeant Major Fisscher (right) Operations Chief aboard the Karl Dorman class Dutch frigate HRMS Tjerk Hiddes briefs Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig during a visit.**  
U.S. Navy photo by Chief Photographer's Mate Dolores Anglin.

space availability in DD 21, moving towards staterooms for all Sailors," said the Secretary. "Now I've seen some of that onboard this ship."

Secretary Danzig's trip comes on the heels of his

Jan. 6 announcement that both industry teams working on DD 21 have chosen to use an integrated electronic power system and electric drive to power the next

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## Navy restores ties to Tailhook Association

By the Navy Office of Information

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The Department of the Navy announced Jan. 19 that it would restore ties to the Tailhook Association.

This decision was made following a lengthy review of the relationship between the Navy and the Tailhook Association. As part of that review, Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig sent official representatives to the Tailhook

Association's August 1999 Convention in Reno, Nev., to observe first-hand the convention activities and to speak with Tailhook Association's leadership and convention attendees.

The representatives, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), Ms. Carolyn Becraft; Commander, Naval Air Force,

U.S. Pacific Fleet, Vice Adm. Mike Bowman; and Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat and Development Command, Lt. Gen. John Rhodes, recommended the Department favorably consider resumption of support to the Tailhook Association.

Secretary Danzig, along

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# Suicide prevention is everyone's responsibility

By Michael McLellan, NAVPERSCOM Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) — "It's okay for shipmates to help shipmates" is the message conveyed in the Suicide Prevention NAVADMIN released recently by Navy officials. The Navy has accepted the belief expressed by many health officials that suicide is a serious health problem, and is better combated by increased awareness and supportive action Navywide.

Suicide rates in the Navy are considerably lower than the rates in the civilian community, yet suicide is the second leading cause of death for Sailors. Those who contemplate suicide generally exhibit a variety of outward signs. Navy leadership is calling for a proactive commitment to suicide prevention that is directly related to Navy's core values and in keeping with the long held knowledge that "the Navy takes care of its own."

"We need to do everything we can to let Sailors know that there are a variety

of resources available to assist them," emphasized Vice Adm. Norbert R. Ryan, Jr., Chief of Naval Personnel. "One of the keys to suicide

themselves, experience financial problems or performance difficulties, are preoccupied with death, or exhibit mental health prob-

adverse administrative or legal action. Data collected reveals that suicide is usually preceded by alcohol or other substance abuse within 12

hours of the incident, and is often accomplished with a personally owned weapon.

\*There are many people in a well-established network who are ready to lend assistance. Trained professionals in emergency care centers, mental health clinics, substance abuse rehabilitation programs, family service centers and

military chaplains or civilian clergy are standing by ready to assist. According to Lt. Cmdr. Kevin Kennedy, Navy Personnel Command's Suicide Prevention/Stress Management program manager, "Access to sources of help significantly lowers the likelihood of suicide."

Additional information regarding this endeavor is available in NAVADMIN 338/99 or by contacting Lt. Cmdr. Kennedy. His commercial number is (901) 874-4256, DSN 882, and email address is p601b@persnet.navy.mil.

## ***AID LIFE - Seven-step guideline to lend a hand:***

***A-Ask the person if they're thinking about suicide.***

***I-intervene immediately.***

***D-Don't keep it a secret.***

***L-Locate help.***

***I-Inform your chain of command.***

***F-Find someone, don't leave the person alone.***

prevention is early intervention."

According to health officials, there are no hard and fast indicators that can predict an individual's intention to commit suicide. However, most people are unable to conceal the fact they are experiencing problems, and usually exhibit one or more common signs that they need assistance. Shipmates are in need of assistance when they have difficulty managing relationships, exhibit impulsive anger, socially isolate

lems such as anxiety, depression, or have previously attempted suicide.

If you have any reason to suspect that such a person might commit suicide, Navy officials are asking you to pose the tough question, "Are you contemplating suicide?" or "Are you thinking about hurting yourself?"

Suicides usually occur when a member is in a liberty, leave or unauthorized absence status. Risk of suicide increases during times of personal crisis,

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generation warship. Integrated power systems and electric drive technology represent great potential to improve the quality of life for embarked Sailors because they free up large amounts of internal space, leaving room for habitability improvements like one-person staterooms.

"This is a long sought

and much desired goal. DD 21 will truly be the first 'Smart Ship' built from the keel up," said Secretary Danzig. "Electric drive technology is integral to that. The warfighting and quality of life benefits that can be derived from this mean that our Sailors will walk aboard a ship that is unlike any other they have

ever known. With DD 21, Sailors will live, work, and fight aboard a ship that values them like never before."

While the first of the DD 21 class of destroyers is expected to be in commission by the end of this decade, portions of the program are already being implemented. All of the

Navy's cruisers and most of its destroyers are being converted to smart ships over the next four or five years. Civilians are already taking over some of the more mundane jobs done by Sailors. This year in the Atlantic Fleet alone, 12 ships are scheduled to be painted by contract workers instead of Sailors.

# Food service initiatives tested on board USS Tarawa

By Naval Supply Systems Command Public Affairs

MECHANICSBURG, Pa. (NNS) — Feeding the crew of a U.S. Navy ship is hard and demanding work for both the Mess Management Specialists (MS's) and Food Service Attendants (FSA's). The job ranges from planning, preparing and serving nutritious meals, through detailed galley recording keeping, to clean-up and maintenance of galley spaces, equipment and related areas. The typical workday runs from 5 a.m. until about

7:30 p.m.

In a concerted effort with the Fleet and the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), the Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP) is reengineering Navy's Food Service Afloat program to improve the quality of life (QOL) for Sailors and create a more efficient food service operation afloat.

As a key part of this effort, NAVSUP is currently prototyping 13 food service

afloat initiatives onboard the USS Tarawa (LHA 1), homeported in San Diego, Calif. The goal of the prototyping is to demonstrate the initiatives that may significantly reduce workload afloat while improving QOL and nutrition. Multiple initiatives are being tested simultaneously in order to identify the synergies associated with initiatives that complement each other.

The thirteen initiatives

being prototyped are:

- Using smartcard technology to track consumption of meals in private messes.
- Converting traditional full-service serving lines to self-service serving lines.
- Using state-of-the-art cleaning equipment to improve sanitation and decrease cleaning time for galley spaces and equipment.

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with Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jay L. Johnson and Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James L. Jones, studied the group's findings and met with the association's leaders Jan. 18, 2000, before reaching the decision.

Secretary Danzig said, "The shameful events at the Tailhook Convention in 1991 led to a withdrawal of our support for the association. Over the past eight years, however, the association took a number of constructive steps that warranted a review of its status. Based on those steps, our review of their most recent convention, and our meeting with the association's leaders, we've concluded that the time is right to restore ties. We fully expect the Tailhook Association will continue to provide support to the Navy and more specifically, naval aviation."

The Navy terminated all ties with the Tailhook Association Oct. 29, 1991, after a series of investiga-

tions revealed misconduct by active duty Navy and Marine Corps officers at the association's annual conventions. In restoring support, the Department of the Navy's leadership has received assurances that the association had taken positive action to ensure that there would be no repeat of events such as those at the 1991 Tailhook Association convention.

The Tailhook Association has assured Navy leadership that they would actively:

- Provide opportunities for significant enrichment for all members by focusing on the professional challenges and opportunities facing naval aviation;

- Be completely supportive, in word and deed, of all the men and women in the carrier aviation community;

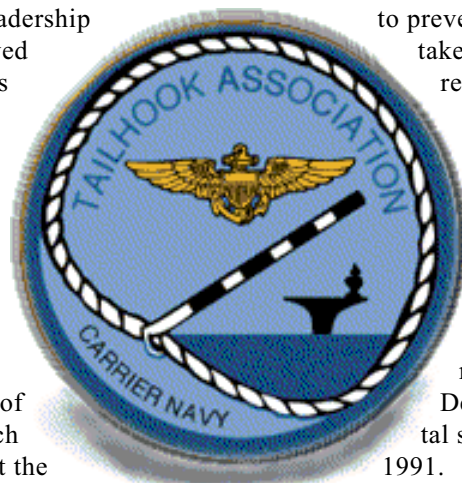
- Be committed to preventing, and take all reasonable steps to prevent, the type of misconduct that resulted in the removal of Departmental support in 1991.

According to Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jay L. Johnson, the time is right to make this decision now. "The Tailhook Association leadership is committed to the changes they have made," Adm. Johnson said. "They have pledged to enhance naval aviation and serve as a forum for educating our younger aviators. It

is important for us to renew ties to an organization that can foster professional growth, camaraderie and pride."

Since its formation, the Tailhook Association has provided a valuable professional forum for members of the naval aviation community, active duty, reserve and retired. For many years Tailhook provided a venue for members of a unique and dangerous occupation to share experiences, lessons learned and information about the future of naval aviation. Affiliation with a professional community promotes job satisfaction and pride. These factors ultimately enhance personal and unit readiness.

Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James L. Jones said, "This decision underscores the fact that the Tailhook Association is a relevant organization. They have made reforms and deserve our renewed support."



# Mobile Bay chaplain hears surface warfare calling

By Ensign Crispin N. Pavelski, U.S. Naval Reserve

YOKOSUKA, Japan (NNS) — For perhaps the first time, a sea going Navy chaplain has transferred to the surface warfare officer (SWO) community.

Former Navy Chaplain Lt. Michael Wallace, a native of Chicago, stationed aboard USS Mobile Bay (CG 53), believes that God works in strange and mysterious ways, he said, referring to his recent resignation from the Navy chaplain corps to become a surface warfare officer.

“During the recent East Timor operations I truly saw and lived the mission of the Navy and the idealism of surface warfare officers willing to stand the watch in harm’s way,” he said. “This is a unique opportunity to make concrete my intangible convictions.”

With a formal education in Psychology (Augustana College) and a master’s in Divinity (Claremont Graduate School), Wallace became an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. Commissioned in December 1996, Wallace joined the Navy chaplain corps to “look for meaningful, positive ways to impact other people’s lives.”

When asked if there was any personal conflict between these two very different callings, “Chaps” said, “Theology and ministry brought him closer to the ideals of freedom, justice, and truth that surface warfare

represents.

“During my graduate studies, I was always most drawn to writers who held conviction and substance in higher regard than simple esoteric and theoretical intellectual debate,” he said. “Debate, in my opinion, has never and will never advance a society. Essentially nothing matters unless you have the conviction to stand for what you believe in.”

Wallace’s conversion followed many hours of informal discussion on the



bridge and in the combat information center with the ship’s senior SWO’s, particularly Lt. Cmdr. Dave McFarland, of El Paso, Texas, the ship’s senior watch officer and combat systems officer.

McFarland said, “Mike is going to be a superb SWO.

As a successful chaplain, he obviously has incredible leadership and people skills, but more importantly he shares our work ethic and displays the kind of quiet determination and dedication required to one day com-

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- Adopting selected advanced food products (frozen, chilled, shelf-stable) that are highly acceptable to the crew, demonstrate labor savings and require less storage, rather than cooking the same item from scratch.

- Using contractor support instead of ship’s working parties to load pierside subsistence deliveries into storerooms.

- Contracting out Food Service Attendant functions (i.e., cleaning and trash removal) while in port.

- Providing the latest in food service equipment technologies as identified by the NAVSEA Affordability Through Commonality (ATC) program.

- Replacing manual inventory management process with bar-coding technology for recording receipts, breakouts/

breakbacks and inventories.

- Eliminating stateroom cleaning for all officers O-4 and below ... junior officers assume responsibilities.

- Minimizing food preparation in multiple galleys ... using standard menus and centralized preparation.

- Installing NAVSEA approved no-wax and no-buff decking.

- Serving pre-prepared entrees for the dinner meal while in port ... allows MS’s and FSA’s to secure at 1400 daily while providing a quality meal to the crew for the evening meal.

- Implementing commercial sector inventory practices by inventorying food items based on the item’s cost vice conducting routine wall-to-wall inventories.

The prototyping onboard Tarawa began in October 1999,

and will continue for one year. Those prototyped initiatives that prove successful will be adopted as the food service paradigm of the future.

NAVSUP’s primary mission is to provide U.S. Naval forces with quality supplies and services. With headquarters in Mechanicsburg, Pa., and employing a worldwide work force of more than 820 military personnel and more than 9,000 civilians, NAVSUP oversees logistics programs in the areas of supply operations, conventional ordnance, contracting, resale, fuel, transportation, and security assistance. In addition, NAVSUP is responsible for quality of life issues for our naval forces, including food service, postal services, Navy Exchanges, and movement of household goods.



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mand a combatant.”

Capt. Ed Rogers, commanding officer of Mobile Bay, added “Mike Wallace’s enthusiasm for sea duty and surface warfare has inspired an already turbo charged wardroom and crew. His decision has touched and deeply moved us all in a very personal way.”

During 1999, Wallace spearheaded the ship’s community relations team which led to the Japan Community Relations Ship of the Year award and Chief of Naval Operations runner up for the 1999 Good Neighbor Flagship award. One of his projects in East Timor was

televised on CNN.

As a key damage control training team member, he raised the level of damage control proficiency to new highs which allowed Mobile Bay to expand inport duty sections to eight, the first in the forward deployed naval force. He was also a key player in winning the Chief of Information “Best Familygram” award for 1999.

“This is a great win,” Rogers said. “The Navy has not only retained a man of god, but gained a future commanding officer.”

In less than one year,

Wallace will have sailed through the Taiwan Straits twice, responded to Korean contingency operations, participated in operations in East Timor, and is now headed for the Middle East, according to Rogers.

Wallace embarked USS Cushing (DD 985) Jan. 4 for a Middle East force deployment and will return to Mobile Bay in May for final qualification. His career plans include another “tip of the spear” division officer tour with the forward deployed naval forces, before taking SWO shore duty as a student at department head school.

## On Navy/ Marine Corps News

Look for the following stories and more on next week’s show:

\* The Marine Corps bids farewell to former Commandant General Leonard Chapman at Arlington National Cemetery.

\* Ride a patrol craft off Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico to see how Sailors keep the harbor safe for operations.

\* Meet a Navy recruiter who is setting records with an assignment like no other in Yokosuka, Japan.

\* The USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) battle group becomes the first to get underway in the new century.

Compiled on tape #956, the show is on its way to the fleet now.

## In naval history: Jan. 26, 1913

The body of John Paul Jones is laid in its final resting place in the Chapel of the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. As captain of Bon Homme Richard, Jones uttered “I have not yet begun to fight” in response to a question of British surrender during a battle with the frigate HMS Serapis, Sept. 23, 1780.

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# It takes a village



Two F/A-18 "Hornets" prepare to launch from USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67). Kennedy is deployed to the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Southern Watch. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Christian Eskelund.